(c) to (e)The Government has seen reports about protest to Russia by USA within the ambit of the Nuclear Suppliers' Club, of which both are members, about Russia's supply of uranium fuel to India. However, there has been no protest made to the Government of India.

Achievement of export growth

2092. SHRIMATIAMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether export promotion bodies are confident of achieveing higher export during 2002-2003 as compared to poor performance in the previous yean

(b) if so, whether during the last year, the export growth rate dipped to a negative 0.08 per cent;

(c) if so, what are the main points on which the export promotion council has expected that the export growth will be 12 per cent; and

(d) what efforts are being made to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE ANO INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c)The total value of India's exports of merchandise goods for the year 2001 -02 are estimated at US $ 43.6 billion which is 1.17% lower than the previous year mainly due to the global economic slowdown and the impact of September 11 events and its aftermath. For the fiscal year 2002-03, a target of 12% in dollar terms, has been fixed in consultation with Export Promotion Councils. The exports during the first quarter of 2002-03 have witnessed a growth of 11.29%. The world trade.scenario has improved. Besides many measures have been taken to step up exports.

(d) Based on the Medium Term Export Strategy announced by the Deptt. of Commerce and the action plans prepared by the various Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards, specific product and market related strategies are implemented to enhance the export growth during current year. Further, in the Exim Policy 2002-07, a number of measures have been announced to promote exports which include additional features for Special Economic Zones, a scheme to reimburse certain admissible

expenses for export of certain agricultural products, development of clusters to help small scale exports, additional support for electronic hardware exports, further feduction in transaction costs, etc.

FDI limit in pharmaceuticals

2093. SHRIMATIAMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's decision to increase FDI limit in pharmaceuticals to 100 per cent from 74 per cent has evolved a good response;

(b) if so, whether 11 pharma companies have applied to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) to hike their stake to 100%;

(c) whether the Foreign Institutional Investment Authority has in the last 18 months resolved 69 of the 109 issues brought before it; and

(d) if so, to what extent this decision has helped the pharmaceutical companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Subsequent to the issuance of Press Note No. 4 of 2001 Series dated 21.5.2001 allowing 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) on the automatic route for manufacture of drugs and pharmaceuticals, except for activities attracting compulsory licensing or involving use of recombinant DNA technology, and specific cell/tissue targeted formulations, a total number of 41 cases have been approved for foreign collaboration by FIPB and RBI (under its automatic route) with total investment intentions of Rs. 302.09 crore. Out of these, 4 cases have been approved by FIPB for increase in foreign equity to 100% in the Drugs & Pharmaceuticals sector involving investment intentions of Rs. 6.69 crore. A total number of 257 proposals involving a total investment of Rs. 2916.81 crore have been granted in this sector from 1.8.1991 to 31.5.2002.

(c) and (d) Till date, Foreign Investment Implemenation Authority (FIIA) has resolved/decided 72 issues out of 109 brought before it. One of the issues resolved, pertains to a pharmaceutical company relating to obtaining pollution clearance from the State Government.